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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Unit 13 members to vote on employer's formal settlement offer *Ratification meetings scheduled statewide*

The Hawaii Government Employees Association (HGEA) received a formal settlement offer from the state and county government employers for the contract period from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2015. Although this offer does not meet the Unit 13 negotiating team's priorities, the team felt it was important to give members the opportunity to consider the offer and vote to accept or reject it. Members are encouraged to attend the ratification meetings to gain a full understanding of the offer and hear the different options, which will allow them to make an informed decision.

The terms of the employer's offer include salary increases of approximately 4 percent each year and a 60 percent/40 percent employer/employee split on the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF) health insurance premium. HGEA will not comment publicly on the details of the offer, as the negotiating team would like to present all the information to members at the ratification meetings.

HGEA's Unit 13 membership consists of approximately 8,100 professional and scientific employees.

Collective bargaining agreements are subject to ratification vote by the bargaining unit membership. Statewide ratification meetings will be held on Friday, April 26 through Tuesday, April 30. These meetings are open only to HGEA Bargaining Unit 13 members. Members are encouraged to read the details of the Unit 13 employer offer and obtain the ratification meeting schedule on the HGEA website at www.hgea.org or at their respective HGEA office. Voting results are expected the evening of April 30.

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About HGEA

HGEA was founded in 1934 to ensure fair and equitable representation for government employees. HGEA is the largest labor union in Hawaii, with more than 42,000 members. HGEA represents state and county employees in seven bargaining units. HGEA also serves a large associate membership composed primarily of retirees, other state and county employees and officials, and federal and private sector employees.